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FARMER AND PLANTER.

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, DOMESTIC AND RURAL ECONOMY.

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ADDRESS,

Of Dr. J. H. DAVIS, before the Laurens Agricultural Society, at Laurens C. H., on the 7th September, 1853.

Mr. President and Gentlemen

of the Laurens Agricultural Society:

I thank you for the honor conferred in appointing me orator for this, your first anniversary meeting. It would have been easy to have appointed one more able, but none who feels more interest in the progress of agriculture in Laurens.

I shall not consume your time with preliminary remarks, but, as the farmer should al-

ways do go right to business. It appears to me a survey of the past and present condition of Agriculture in our State, and particularly Laurens, and its future prospects, may better than any thing else, engage attention on the present occasion.

Everything is progressive—nothing stationary; but has our progress been upward or downward? To show you the condition of the upper districts of South Carolina a hundred years ago, I read from Ramsay's History of South Carolina, facts furnished principally by Anthony Park, and my uncle, the late Dr James Davis, both at one time, I believe, residents of this District.

"In the year 1850," says the Historian "when the settlement of the up-country began, there were so many buffaloes, which have long since disappeared, that three or four men with their dogs could kill fifty ten to twenty in a day. Wild turkeys were also in the greatest plenty. Deer were numerous that a rifleman with a little powder and shot could easily kill four or five in a day. A common hunter in the autumn season as many bears as would make from two to three thousand pounds weight of bacon. The waters abound with beavers, otters, and muskrats. Twenty beavers have been caught by one man in one season on Fairforest. The country was also overrun with wolves, panthers and wild-cats. There was a great facility of raising stock from the profusion of native grasses and canes. When the whole country was with

in the grasp of a few settlers, the reference of one spot over another was generally decided by the comparative plenty of canes.—provisions were easily raised, the labor of raising them for sale was but indifferently rewarded; for there was no regular market for any crop nearer than 100 miles. The skins of wild beasts were the most profitable remittances to Charlestown; next to them was butter and tallow; afterwards flour and hemp. In a few years indigo began to be an object of industry, Tobacco and other heavy articles would frequently do little more than pay the expenses of bringing them to market."

Such 100 years ago, was the country we now inhabit. Nature wore its primeval aspect; the hand of man had not touched and disfigured this almost Garden of Eden.—Beautiful country!—happy primitive people!

"Such were those prime of days,
Whence the fabled Poets took their golden age."

But we go on to read with the historian:

"Since the year 1792 the general cultivation of cotton has materially altered the state of the country. The people have for the most part passed from a state of depression to easy and comfortable circumstances. By nice calculation, it appears that in good seasons, from good lands, and with the usual good prices, the clear profits on an acre of land planted in cotton are from ten to thirteen dollars, and in a relative proportion under less favorable circumstances. This surplus, after all expenses are paid or taken into account, will purchase the fee simple of the land for such is its low price compared with the high value of the commodities raised upon it, that with a few exceptions, one good crop will sell for as much as the ground on which it is raised. The clear profits on other articles of culture are less than on cotton. On wheat they are about \$6 to the acre, on corn from \$8 to \$10. As the same force of hands can cultivate more acres in wheat or corn than in cotton, the profits of each may be made to approach nearer to equality; but the advantage is decidedly in favor of cotton. This is so much the case that provisions are comparatively neglected. This neglect equalizes the profits still more, for while so many cultivate cotton, the few who plant provisions obtain the better price for what they raise."

* * * * *

"Though the upper country has grown

more sickly since it became more cleared, there is ground to hope that when it is better cultivated, it will again be more healthy than at present. There is already some hopeful appearances of this in some of the oldest and most highly cultivated settlements.—The upper country possesses the natural requisites for health and longevity. Marriages are early and generally prolific. In one district, containing upwards of 17,000 white inhabitants, there is not one woman of the age of twenty-five who is neither wife nor widow. The sky generally clear and serene, is seldom obscured by a series of moist misty weather. Rains come on suddenly, fall hastily, and terminates at once, leaving a clear settled sky. The air is pure and temperate, and although variable, is seldom subject to sudden and great changes. During summer Fahrenheit's thermometer generally fluctuates from 65 to 86, and during the winter from 20 to 55. Every year, however there are a few days when the mercury rises in summer to 94 or 95, and in winter when it falls to 10 or 11. The soil is elevated and dry, except near the edges of the water courses in the most rainy seasons. * Fogs are rare and readily dissipated by the rising sun. Flies, gnats, and other insects which attend putrid air, mud and slime, are few in number, nor are they in swarms in the most boggy spots.

"The numerous springs afford pure and excellent water.

"Night air must be little noxious. The exposure to it is great, and the bad consequences few. Metals exposed to the air, are but slowly corroded. Butcher's meat may be preserved for several days in the warmest season in a house built over a spring of water, commonly called a spring-house.

"An unusual proportion of children are raised to maturity. From their birth they exhibit strong marks of health, which is seldom interrupted by puny habits. Their diseases are generally short and easily managed.

"A considerable number of the inhabitants live to be old. Each district can boast of several who are between 80 and 100.

The extracts I have read apply to the condition of our up-country some forty to sixty years ago. Many who now hear me are old enough to trace our agricultural history down from that date to the present time. And what is that history? I will try to be short, for I would like to say no harm

WASSELL BROTHERS

PRINTERS

of Carolina, our common mother; and whatever truth may compel me to say, I am sure you will all join me when I say "with all her faults I love her still." But the truth must be told. The course of agriculture for the last forty years has been anything but upward and forward. We might say almost without poetic licence, that the destroying angel has visited these once fair forests and limpid streams with their flowery banks—the forests have fallen before the axeman—the streams have become turbid from the detritus of our farms, the fields, which, for a while, from the richness of their virgin soil, cheered the farmer with exuberant crops, are washed and worn into unsightly gullies and barren slopes—everything everywhere betrays improvident and reckless management; the old field pine is taking the place of the stately oak—poverty grass, and broom-sedge, the place of the wild pea-vine and the cultivated crops. To the traveller along our highways how wearisome and cheerless the journey. In vain the enquiring eye wanders from scene to scene—everywhere the effects of a blighting, destructive culture meets his view, 'til at last he turns with melancholy relief to some remnant of the forest, some shady grove, which the had of the spoiler has not yet reached.

Such is a short and imperfect sketch of what has been, and still, to a great extent, is, the condition of agriculture in Laurens and the upper districts of South Carolina. Our fathers, who, as Milton says of our first parents, had

"The world all before them where to choose

Their place of rest, and Providence their guide." might well be excused for not studying very carefully the art of improving soils. Everything was fresh around them; the wilderness of America seemed boundless, and they could not anticipate that in one hundred years all this extended wilderness was to be thickly peopled. They naturally adopted an improvident course, (be it reverently said, for they were a noble race,) but we for the last 25 years have not had that excuse—we have imitated their faults, I fear, far better than their virtues.

I turn, now, from this part of my task with pleasure. I look forward to our future prospects with better hopes. Many things encourage me to take this view; and first, and the most important, the work of improvement is already begun. Our Historian, from whom I have quoted so much already, says,

"The art of manuring land is little understood and less practiced. The bulk of the planters, relying on the fertility of the soil, seldom planting any but what is 'good', and changing land when it begins to fail for that which is fresh, seldom give themselves much trouble to keep their fields in heart. Beds of compost are rare. Twenty years ago there was no fixed price in Charlestown for manure, and it was often given to the first who offered to carry it off."

Such was the case forty years ago, but it is not so now. Every where around us we see yards littered, and piles of compost rising up. Even guano and plaster begins to be imported among us, grade ditching and horizontal plowing are becoming fashionable; and already some of our exhausted old field, from bearing only broom-sedge, have become prolific cotton fields. These are cheering and unmistakable signs that we are on the road to improvement, and I congratulate you, gentlemen, on this view of the subject, and trust as we have laid the foundation we will not pause in the good work. Again, another good sign: we have two agricultural journals in the State, and thousands of our farmers and planters are reading and actually becoming book farmers. They are no longer ashamed to seek for information, and they begin to understand that books may be written on farming as well as on Divinity, Law, or Medicine. And I must not omit to mention one more sign that we are on the road to improvement. It is the formation of the Agricultural Society which I now address. Gentlemen are surely not engaged in child's play; this is not, I hope, a mere party of pleasure. I am not mistaken in thinking you come together here for mutual improvement—that you mean to teach and learn from one another. To suppose anything else would be to suppose you guilty of a puerility unworthy of your years and standing in society. No, I regard you as pledged from this time forth, to help one another to build up for Laurens a profitable and creditable system of agriculture. You may do it if you will—slowly it may be, but surely. All it requires is the indomitable will—let there be among you no such word as fail.

So much for our past and present condition and future prospects. I wish now to glance at a few other topics. Gentlemen, there is one fact I wish to impress upon your minds; I wish I could make you sensible of

full importance. It is this: *A Prosperous agriculture is the chief corner-stone of a Nation's prosperity.* You may build up your villages, your churches and school-houses, your highways and railroads—it will all be to no purpose, unless they are sustained by sound and prosperous agriculture. All other foundations will be sandy foundations, on which if a people build they must fall.—you cannot, then attach too much importance to this branch of human industry—you cannot do too much to promote its prosperity. It is worthy of your best thoughts and best exertions. You should labor for its advancement, individually and collectively, at home and abroad, in your fields and in your societies. If you love your country, if you love your families, you cannot do too much to promote it.

It has been a subject of grave enquiry, whether the time is not approaching when the earth will be so thickly peopled that its available surface will not bring forth sufficient support its teeming population. This would be an appalling state of affairs. We will not, at the present time, however, trouble ourselves about going into a calculation of its probability. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof." But it may not be amiss, nevertheless, to take some views in that direction—perhaps we may derive encouragement and comfort from it. In England the population is 224 to the square mile; in Holland 280, and in Belgium 323 to the square mile. Now in South Carolina, it amounts to only about 20 to the square mile; so it appears we have yet plenty of room, and that for some time to come, we need not an overcrowded population. But we have another reason for comfort; It is not easy to calculate the productive powers of the soil, nor to what extent they may be improved, and, therefore, to what extent they may bear an increased population. J. F. W. Johnston, in his *Agricultural Chemistry*, says, that in Great Britain the lands have been so much improved in the last sixty years, that the same number of acres support doubly as many people, and have, therefore, doubled their product. He supposes every 34 acres of land in Great Britain to support 20 people. We have it from the same authority that the average per acre of wheat used to be 15 to 20 bushels, and that now it is from 30 to 50. "Nothing," he says, "repays the labors of the husbandman more fully than the willing soil; nothing is more grateful

for his attention, and offers surer rewards to patient industry, or to renewed attempts at improvement." Surely here is encouragement for us to try to improve our agriculture.

But if agriculture is a matter of such paramount national importance, what is to be done to promote its expansion and progress? This opens a field too wide for me to explore on the present occasion; I can only glance at some of the points it presents.—Much has been said in favor of a national agricultural bureau to foster a national agriculture. It has been urged that the Federal Government spends millions to protect and foster commerce, that she protects the manufacturer by the arrangement of her tariff, and the mechanic by letters patent; and, it is asked, shall she do nothing for agriculture, the most important interest of them all? This is a specious way of reasoning, and looks very much like begging the question. In the first place, we may have gone too far in fostering commerce; in the second place, we have gone too far in protecting manufactures; we may have favored one interest by burthening another. It is hard to use the lever without a fulcrum, and our past experience teaches us where the fulcrum—the ass that bears the burden—is most likely to be found. No, we want no national fostering of agriculture. Agriculture, commerce, and manufactures all do best when self sustained, *Laissez nous faire*, is our motto—let us alone—give us an open field and fair play, is all that we ask. We are afraid of a meddling Government—give us the liberty of managing our own affairs—put no obstructions in our way—lay no burthens upon our backs—we can do without your help—and this is all we want of the Federal Government.

But could not the State do something to promote the cause of agriculture? Not a great deal, I fear without running counter to some of the same objections—the inequality of her action, favoring some interests at the expense of others, &c. Yet something she could do, and whatever she can do, she ought to do. She can open and repair highways; open rivers and build railroads; regulate weights and measures, and tax sheep-killing dogs; but mainly and principally, she can and ought to put it more in the power of the planter and farmer to give their sons an education suitable to their particular business. She appropriates annually,

and very properly, large sums for the support of her college and free schools. This is all right; but in her college she has not one Professorship of Agriculture, nor for her free schools one elementary book teaching its first principles. If it is right to train up a child in the way he should go—if the discipline of the youthful mind should be such as would tend to form it for the after duties of life, surely the farmer's son should receive an education suited to his intended occupation. Agriculture is now a science, and will soon claim its place as such everywhere throughout the civilized world.

Is this then all that can be done for agriculture? Is she that unfortunate lady of whom every one speaks well, but no one loves? No, she has many devout admirers, ready and willing to do for her anything that men can do. It is true she is partial to a hard hand and sun-burnt brow, and shy of those who would woo her favors with mittens on. But I digress. Much can be done in various ways, independent of Legislation, to promote the cause of agriculture. The chemist and the printing press are now both making an earnest tender of their services. These are able allies—let us not slight their offer—let us cheer them with a hearty welcome—welcome and support them with our purse. The chemists are now offering various fertilizers in small bulk—some of these may, on trial, be found to suit us, some will no doubt fail, and some will cost more than they are worth; but let us try them on a small scale at first—let us get experience—let us be willing to “buy wisdom.” As to the press, I hope no one will hesitate for the small pittance it claims for its support—no right minded farmer will; but this is not enough—we must “read, ponder and inwardly digest”—we must write for it, and talk about it.

And finally gentlemen, as a Society, you can do much to promote the cause of agriculture—you can try experiments with the various kinds of fertilizers, the various new implements of husbandry, and report them; you can raise the various kinds of stock, determine which can be profitably raised, which are best suited to our locality, and what the cheapest and best food, &c., and present them at our annual fairs for inspection and premiums; but let no one claim a premium without giving the whole details of the cost and trouble of raising. But above all, you can compete for the premium for the best

managed farm, which ought not only to have the highest premium, but the highest honor.

And Ladies, if I have not given you “a place in the picture” till now, it is not because there is no place in it for you. Every one knows that the house, the garden, and the farm, would lose all their charms if women were not there. To the professional character, to the merchant, and to the man of leisure, woman may be an occasional companion; but to the farmer and planter she is all that and more; she is “an help-mate,” she is “his better half.” However great her influence may be elsewhere, it is greatest here. For the cause of Agriculture then, Ladies, you can do much—very much; so much that without your help it must fail. Yours is a quiet and unobtrusive influence; it is not, therefore, the less active or potent. Let us have your help—let us have your smiles and your approbation.

I have purposely refrained from introducing the more practical subjects of the farm and every-day-business of the farmer.—These will form the subject for discussion in your Society, of your written reports, and of your weekly reading in the agricultural papers. I have now only to thank you for your attention, and express the hope that you will go on with the work you have so nobly begun, with that sober, steady zeal and industry which wins success.

To Cure Foll-Lyell in Horset.—Mix copperas and hog's lard, and simmer over the fire in an iron pot; with this rub the part affected plentifully two or three times a week, and let the hot sun drive it in. The application should be made before the disease has gone too far. Mind to keep rubbing till a cure is effected; it takes time.

Measurement of Hay in the bulk.—Multiply the length, breadth and height of the hay into each other, and if the hay is somewhat settled, ten solid yards will weigh a ton. Clover will take 11 to 12 yards to a ton.

Reasons why Coffee is not well Made.—The berries are frequently too rapidly roasted, their proper color being that of cinnamon. 2d. The coffee is ground too fine. 3d. not enough coffee is used. It is usually over-boiled, by which the bitter principle is extracted from the berries, and little or no pains taken to clarify it.—*Ex.*

From the (Ala.) Cotton Planter.

Sheep vs. Dogs.

DR. CLOUD—Dear Sir: I have been quite interested with the description given in your Planter of the Cotswold sheep. In this country, nothing pay so poorly as the sheep, *owing to the dogs*. Chain one portion and cut the throats of the other, and nothing would pay so well. Nature has been bountiful in provision to enable us to raise mutton and wool in competition with any part of the world; but folly stands in the way, and effectually destroys what nature has so kindly placed within our reach. Mr. Walker an intelligent gentleman, representing the county of Richmond, in the Georgia Legislature, attempted to pass a dog law, and it was "laughed down" in the House it was concluded by the other members that the *people* would, by acclamation, condemn any member who would vote for a remedy of this most crying evil, and, therefore, would not entertain the question at all. In my opinion this is a great mistake. The people would ratify any sensible law that would abate the nuisance. To say they would not would be to stultify the majority. If I were an office seeker, I would straddle the canine race for a hobby sooner than any other question that occurs to me. Sheep and dogs cannot be turned loosed in the same country any more than cats and rats. There is no necessity for exterminating either, but the people have sense enough to know that, as one or the other has to be secured, that we can afford to secure every useful dog, and to raise sheep by securing them against their natural enemy, is to determine that *sheep shall not be raised, in any quantity, to a profit*. I do not think you could better appropriate your useful talents than by wielding your able pen in behalf of the innocent and suffering lamb.

Down with the dogs and

VIVE LE MOUTON.

Cooked food for Cattle.—Mr. James S. Huber, lately stated before the Philadelphia County Farmer's Club, that he had proved by actual experiment in feeding 12 cows, 180 days upon cooked food, that he made a net gain of \$32. In place of 20 lbs. of hay per day, formerly fed raw, he now feeds 12 lbs, cut and steamed. With this he mixes 4 1/2 quarts of chipstuf, Indian corn meal and oil cake meal, in about equal portions. This with the hay weighs bout 42 lbs. when cook-

ed, having gained about 31 lbs. by that process. He says it is not only more economical; but more palatable to the cattle; they eat it with out waste and keep in better condition. His steaming apparatus cost \$25, which he more than saved in six months feeding. He considers, however, the greatest gain is the health of the animals.—*N. Y. Agricultor.*

Recipe for the Cure of Swinney or Big-Shoulder in Horses.—The following mixture is said to be an infallible cure for swinney, or big shoulder, in horses. It should, however, be applied sparingly, or it will blister.

- 2 oz. Liquid Opodeldoo,
- 2 " Oil of Spike,
- 2 " Hartshorn,
- 1 " Number Six,
- 3 " Alcohol,
- 1 " Tincture of Spanish Flies,
- 1 " Spirits of Turpentine.

Trusting that those having horses afflicted with this troublesome disease may test the above remedy, and that it may be found effectual, I remain yours, truly, CENTAUR.

Walker county, Georgia, June, 1852.

[*Southern Cultivator.*]

**For the Farmer and Planter.
Encouragement.**

COLUMBUS, Miss., Oct. 27, 1853.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I see a call in the last Farmer and Planter upon its friends and patrons to come to its aid; if they fail in this, down goes the valuable Farmer and Planter. Is it or can it be possible that the intelligent people of my native State will let such a paper go down? Surely not. I have more confidence in the good people of South Carolina. When I look over the receipts I find many names not on your list that ought to be there. I will just say to you I have nine new subscribers, and will have three more or pay it myself. If each subscriber will get a new one, you will then begin to rise, or rather commence receiving an equivalent for your labor. I do hope you will not leave the editorial chair. Thanks to good fortune, the prejudice against book farming is fast giving way and light and knowledge taking its place. I would have sent you the money, but for your editorial in your last number.

I have no doubt in my mind but that your list of subscribers might be doubled by a small effort upon the part of the active friends of the Farmer and Planter. Call on

all to come up to your aid, and let us make a "long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether," and then you will go to work with new zeal.

You have all the while sent out an interesting paper. I shall leave for South Carolina some time in December; I will call on you (perhaps) and have a personal interview. If I do not call on you, I will send you the names I have in time for the commencement of the next volume.

Yours, respectfully,

WM. B. OWINGS.

[With many thanks, we shall be extremely glad to see you, friend Owings.—Eds.]

Railways and their Creation of Wealth.

If one should attempt to get together all the facts that show the value of the railway as a creator of wealth, business and property, he would find the account quite voluminous, and after all, perhaps, find his labors thrown away, because such facts are not now needed to stimulate the faith of capitalists and others. The thing that now is most wanted, is a proper degree of prudence. We should restrain men rather than invite them to build more railways. We should caution them to be wary of the dangerous re-action which always follows the strength of the fever. There is a natural law in operation in the human economy in trade, and everything else, which it is dangerous to forget or tamper with. Prudent men know this, and generally act upon though sometimes they forget its full influence. In the operation of our railway system, certain matters have transpired which are worth repeating, and we shall speak of a few of them just for the interest railway men may feel in the general subject.

In comparing the census of Massachusetts of 1840 with that of 1850, several facts are found, showing the influence of railway.—The valuation of the State doubled in that period, going from \$300,000,000 to \$600,000,000; we say doubled, because the census returns so indicate, but had we said trebled, it would probably be nearer right, for, as men grow rich, the more apt are they to conceal the amount of their wealth. Among other things noticeable was the fact that there were seventy-two towns in which the population did not increase from 1840 to 1850. They were all agricultural towns, not enjoying railway facilities. A number of these rural places contained more inhabit-

ants in 1830 even than they did in 1850.—This fact may be accounted for by the fact that, as our railways were built, the tendency of population was to their immediate lines. The rapid increase of valuation of property located on the line of our railways is too well known to require comment. In some of the western States, where the railways now constructing have opened the wild lands to the market, there has been a rapid sale at a very large per centage over the Government price. The Galena Jeffersonian in noticing the matter, states that every acre of Government land along the line of the Illinois Central Railway, not claimed by the company has been taken up by speculators and settlers at \$2 50 per acre. A few years since it could not have been given away, and ten years hence probably some of it will be worth fifty or a hundred dollars an acre, while the average increase in price for the whole, will not fall short of three or four hundred per cent. The rapid increase of property in the State of Michigan, where railway construction was commenced at a very late period, will show some remarkable facts for the stultist. The two main lines of railway, the Michigan Southern and the Michigan Central Railways, were both finished through from the east to Chicago in the early part of 1852. We give below the valuation of the State of Michigan for the years 1851 and 1853:

Valuation in 1851.....	\$21,526,957
Valuation in 1853.....	76,735,495

Increase in two years.....\$55,208,538
There are some thirty counties in the State of Michigan, besides the Northern Peninsula of that State lying on Lake Superior. The two railways run through but twelve of these counties. Now had the increase of \$55,208,538 been equitably distributed over the whole State, the railway counties would be entitled to about one-seventh of it, or nearly eight millions of dollars. We give below copied from the Chicago Tribune, the valuation of the different counties, through which these two roads are run, at the periods specified. The following relates to the Michigan Central Railway:

Valuation	1851.	1853.
Wayne.....	\$3,833,213	\$16,097,330
Washtenaw.....	2,461,473	9,375,005
Jackson.....	1,516,459	4,810,656
Calhoun.....	1,637,437	3,646,811
Kalamazoo	1,094,192	4,810,655

Van Buren	511,563	1,668,561
Total.....	\$11,081,247	\$40,444,913
Increase of six counties.....	\$29,359,771	
The valuation of the counties through which the Michigan and Southern Railway is located, is as follows:		
Valuation	1851.	1853.
Monroe.....	\$960,314	\$1,326,099
Hillsdale.....	993,210	4,167,225
Branch.....	837,230	2,874,354
St. Josephs.....	1,083,920	4,119,675
Berrien.....	875,749	2,874,354
Lewawee.....	411,636	1,290,448

Total..... \$5,166,899 \$13,069,353
 Increase of six counties ... \$12,902,459

From these facts it appears that instead of showing only one-seventh of the total increase of value in the State, the twelve railroad counties have over three-fourths of the entire increase of value of the whole State. These facts may be multiplied to an almost indefinite extent, but we see no reason for it at present. With the light which the public have at present upon the advantage of railway construction, they do not need any urging to go into railway building. We fear we shall soon have occasion to find arguments to restrain that extension of the system which threatens to eat up the entire floating capital, if not the credit of the country.—*Railway Times.*

Fly Poison without Arsenic.—The following preparation is much used in Europe for the destruction of flies: Quassia, eight parts; water, five hundred parts; molasses, one hundred and twenty-five parts. Boil the quassia and water ten minutes; strain and add the molasses. The preparation can easily be made by anyone. Flies are attracted by this and soon killed.

ANCIENT AGRICULTURISTS.—The first three men in the world were a gardener, a plowman and a grazier; and if any man object that the second of these proved a murderer, he will please remember, that as soon as he was so, he quit our profession, and began to build a town.

To double the crops on most farms, about all that is necessary is for Agriculturists to sell off one-half of their land, and with the proceeds buy manure for the other. The larger the farmer the less he grows to the acre.

AN ESSAY

On the Cultivation of Fruit at the South.

BY J. VAN BUREN.

(OF CLARKSVILLE, GEORGIA.)

To the Executive Council of the

Southern Planters' Convention:

GENTLEMEN: Permissible of, and appreciate the honor you have conferred upon me, in the appointment to address so intelligent a portion of the citizens of the South, as the planters of the Slave-holding States, with whom I have spent one-fourth of my entire life, and with whom I shall probably spend the remainder? And whilst I duly estimate this honorable privilege, I at the same time feel conscious of my inability to do justice to the subject assigned me, as well as that others far better qualified and competent could with facility have been selected for this interesting occasion.

No subject could have been selected better suited to our taste and inclinations, than that of the cultivation of fruits at the South; and yet with this favorite subject, we fear we shall be able to say but little that will interest, or be worthy of your notice.

Before we enter upon the item of the Cultivation of fruit, permit us to say a word in favor of the cultivation of flowers. We conceive it but appropriate, as fruits are preceded in their growth by flowers, to pay that department of Horticulture a passing encomium.

Amidst the grand desolation visited in primeval days upon this once fair earth, flowers alone escaped the withering blight of Divine wrath; the rose blooms as sweetly to-day, and is as fragrant as it was in Paradise on the morning it was planted by the hand of its Creator. Even some of the vilest and most noxious weeds, which were cursed as copartners for man through life, bear still in their beautiful flowers, the evidence of a relenting God, who in the hour of vengeance withheld his destroying hand from this department of his choicest and most exquisite portion of his workmanship. Flowers were intended alone to administer to our pleasure and gratification, and not for utility; as we see they are not absolutely necessary to the production of fruit; for the fig as an instance in point, is sent forth and grows to perfection, without the precedence of any visible blossom or flower; it doubtless would have been as easy for him who created fruits to have ordained that all should have grown without the fair harbingers, as with them.

He who can walk, unmoved with grati-

tude, through a well appointed garden, or gaze on the magnificent display of the wild flowers of the prairies, and mountain gorges, and not be transported, retrospectively, to the day, when they came fresh from the hand of the great artist, whose signal impress they bear, "must be fit for darker deeds than treason."

Flowers, too, have a talismanic effect upon our lives and conduct. Who ever saw the humble cottage o'er-twined with jessamine, rose, or ivy, but found it an earnest of its happy, industrious and gentle-inmates?—Or, who ever saw the well appointed lawn, tasteful conservatory, and flower garden of the wealthy, but also found the proprietors intelligent, hospitable, and benevolent?—We would instinctively be surprised to find them otherwise. The cultivation of flowers has the effect to draw the mind from the more rude and austere operations of life, and insensibly leads us back on the pathway to a lost Paradise.

With a climate and facilities such as ours, congenial to almost every flower and fruit from the poles to the tropics, one would have been inevitably led to the corollary, that ours would have been pre-eminent for fruits and flowers, instead of being, as it is, an almost desert in this department of industry. No climate in the world is probably so varied as that of the Southern States; which can, and does produce so great a variety of fruits—think of it!—from the orange of the torrid clime, to the apple of the frigid—all in perfection, and within a territory that may be passed through in a few hours: and yet, with these peculiar advantages, little progress, save of nature herself, or by accident, has been made, until within a short period of time. At the present we are pleased to predict, and constrained to admit there is every appearance of a horticultural furor. And here, we would pause for a moment, and by way of caution to those whose zeal gets the better of sound sense, and admonish them by relating an anecdote of a gentleman of the North, whose horticultural enthusiasm led him into many ludicrous mistakes:

One morning a neighbor found him busily engaged in his garden, and enquired what he was doing? He replied, that a very singular phenomena had occurred, and on which he intended to write an article for the next

meeting of the horticultural society; said he, I planted some beans here a few days since, which have all come up wrong end uppermost, the beans are all on the tops instead of at the bottom, where they should have been, and where I put them; and I am now transplanting them and putting the right end in the ground. Our friend remonstrated with him to no purpose, for, said he, my corn and potatoes have acted sensibly, the colytepons are all at the bottom supporting and nourishing the plants as intended by nature, and this freak of my beans is entirely unaccountable. He cautioned my enthusiastic and scientific hearers, by this gentleman's experience, and should dame nature play any of her freaks on you, don't tell of it.

From time to time, flowers, fruits, and trees have been imported from foreign and northern nurseries, which have mostly lingered between life and death for a few years, ridiculous specimens of either, to the annoyance and disgust of their owners (and your essayist among the number), until they were either dead or abandoned in disappointment. The same was the case also in the Northern States in times past. Having descended from English ancestry, they adopted their inherent preferences, and habits, in most of their occupations, never once reflecting that they were now tenants of a country materially different in soil and climate from that of old England. The same notion was long continued as practiced there in the cultivation of all crops, and amongst them, that of the culture of fruit. English gardeners were transported direct with all their arrogant notions of knowledge and superiority, peculiar to them, who came, saw and axe in hand, determined to let in the sun and hair to the compact and rebellious heads of our more republican trees. After toiling on in disappointment and chagrin for half a century or more, our northern friends began to perceive that their trees knew their own business and wants, better than their gardeners.—They took the hint and began to follow in the course pointed out by these mute, but eloquent subjects, with the result of plenty, where scarcity and disappointment only, existed before.

We too, have pursued the same course—we saw the North revelling in the choicest

and most luscious fruits, and envied them; we purchased flowers, plants and trees, and with them their *modus operandi* of cultivation: but not their success; we profited not by their experience, but imitated them, as they had the English, and with like effect. To northern nursery-men, hundreds of thousands of dollars have annually been paid for fruits, and trees, to very little purpose, when with a moderate degree of enterprising and reflection, we could have found better at home or have originated better, and thus have avoided both the expense and mortification attendant upon our failures.

Until within a very short period, it was no even dreamed that we of the South must abandon these northern systems of cultivation, stereotyped and sent out to us as part and parcel of the trees we bought from Northern nursery-men; they doubtless saw the errors we labored under, and laughed and profited by them, the shower of gold annually sent on there for these articles, and annually re-sent, was a bonus not to be lost by any act of indiscretion on their part by way of information.

The time has however come, that we of the South have found that we can not only equal them in producing every variety of fruit, but exceed their best efforts both in quantity and quality. Not only this, the time will soon be, when the tide of exportation will be from the South to the North, instead of as heretofore, *visé versa*. And all this is in process of attainment, by adopting a system of culture suited to our Southern soil and climate, instead of blindly following the directions before alluded to. We, too, have a beautiful and varied collection of native fruits, which have from time to time originated in our midst, both accidentally and through the efforts of enterprising Horticulturists, and which have not to pass through the tedious and precarious process of acclimating. These, too, are becoming wider and better known and appreciated, and will aid materially in the rapid extension of this department of horticulture.

That the cultivation of fruit as a commercial business is worthy of attention, we hope to be able to show, more especially as our country is becoming pierced in every direction with rail roads leading to our Atlantic cities; this in connection with the intercourse between them through steamers, opens facilities that heretofore have not existed, as inducements to embark in the traffic as a

profitable enterprise.

We have peculiar advantages over Northern fruit growers, for through the genial character of our climate, we have entire control over both the Northern and Southern markets as long as prices are remunerative; from the circumstance of our fruits ripening one or two months earlier than they do in those States. When peaches first appear in the New York market, they bring from five to eight dollars per basket, each one holding about three pecks, and as long as these or other remunerating prices continue to be paid, the South can monopolize the market, and by the time they make their appearance from Northern orchards, the markets will be glutted and the prices reduced to one dollar or less per basket.

The same holds good in respect to every variety of fruit and vegetables sent from the South to the North. The first asparagus, green peas, strawberries, and potatoes that appear in the New York markets uniformly come now from South Carolina and Georgia, and command enormous prices.— Since the establishment of rail roads and steamboats that ply two or three times a week between Northern and Southern ports, peculiar facilities have been opened and practicable, to induce many already to engage in this species of speculation. Northern enterprise has already become aware of the importance of this species of trade, for we are credibly informed, that during the past summer, persons have traversed the interior portions of the State of Georgia endeavoring to engage large quantities of fruit for the Northern cities on speculation.

Now for a moment let us cast about, and endeavor to ascertain what is the probable cost of growing fruit to the acre, and compare it with the amount it will bring in the markets alluded to:

A square acre of ground will contain eighty-one trees, planted at a distance of twenty-four feet each way, which will produce, either peach, pear, apple or others, at a very moderate calculation, four bushels each when eight years old—many of them twice that amount—this will amount to three hundred and twenty-four bushels per acre, and valued at the price of three dollars per bushel, will amount to the handsome sum of nine hundred and seventy-two dollars, before deducting expenses of gathering, conveying to market, &c.; if we even throw away one-half of this amount for contingen-

cies, sufficient still remains to warrant us in saying that a more liberal business could not be found, and sufficient to gratify the most voracious and grasping Shylock.

There is probably no way in which a few acres of ground can be made as profitable, as to employ it in the cultivation of fruit; for whilst trees are growing and the fruit maturing, the ground can be cultivated nearly as profitably as though none were on it, we say that the crops other than fruit, can be made to pay all the expenses of conveying the fruit to market, and have the entire amount it brings as the produce, in profits. We now have trees at the South from 15 to 20 years old, that annually produce from 20 to 25 bushels of apples, which amount is but an ordinary yield for trees of that age. No climate is more congenial to the cultivation of the pear, than ours, and none is more worthy our attention, it needs no more care than the apple, and gives a far greater return both as to quantity and deliciousness. It grows larger and is of finer flavor than at the North, and there is scarce any variety, and their name is legion, but succeeds well.—We have seen the famous little seekle, both North and South, and hesitate not to say, we have seen specimens of it during the past summer of far larger size, and finer flavor than we ever saw them at the North. The pear tree seldom fails of producing a fair crop, and is less liable to the attacks of insects than any other variety of fruit; yet there is a disease to which the tree is subject, which is a serious detriment to an extended culture; we allude to the disease known as the blight, which we think is not incurable or beyond the reach of a remedy. No variety of fruit can be cultivated that will yield a greater profit as a market article than the pear, its price runs from \$4.00 to \$10.00 per bushel, it bears transportation with little injury, and the tree yields immense crops; all that is necessary is to select desirable varieties, as their successful cultivation is as easy as that of the apple. Few persons are aware of the improvement in the size and flavor of this fruit within a few years past, no can they form any estimate of its luscious flavor, until tasting a Seekle, D. Angouleme, Bartlett or Vicar of Winkfield besides a host of others entitled to equal notice.

Every owner of an acre of ground should not fail to plant a few trees of the dwarfed kinds—which are only grafted on the quince stalk instead of the pear—which has the ef-

fect to produce neat, small, compact trees, that come into bearing much sooner than when grafted on the pearstock; these dwarfs can be planted along the sides of garden walks or fences, without interfering materially with anything, as they occupy but little space and cast but little shade. For orchard culture we would recommend standard trees, as the ground they occupy in such cases is of no consequence. These are slower in coming into bearing than the former, but form larger trees that bear larger crops of fruit, and consequently are more profitable as market varieties.

[CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.]

The Potato Plant.

From the Pennsylvania Farm Journal.

MR. EDITOR: We promised your readers of the October number our opinions having reference to the adaptation of soil, depth of planting and locality. In order to prevent us being assailed by any who may differ with us in the views laid down, we might state that we desire nothing more nor less than a fair trial, and let the verdict fall accordingly.

1st. Adaptation of soil and depth of planting.

The soil in order to bring it in a good condition for planting potatoes should be as permeable as possible; a field that has been plowed the previous season is better than sod, and if otherwise no such place will be suitable, we would recommend having the sod plowed that the frost will spend its force upon it and soften the clods; by no means would we recommend planting them under the sod as is often done, for several special and what we consider substantial reasons, first: it should be the intention to have them slightly covered with soil, that the air will, as far as possible, have access to the roots; and secondly, it will be almost impossible to bring the soil in the condition indicated by only once plowing. We have, therefore, premised that the potato should not be planted deep, and that even the small quantity of soil which we would have placed upon them, should be mellow for reasons already laid down, namely, to have free access of the atmosphere. We know a farmer in our community who manures his field in common as for any other crop, and covers the potatoes—plantings—with rye straw and then passes the plow along and covers them slightly with earth, and his crops are generally

good and not affected with the rot. It will, therefore, be seen that we consider the health of the potato to depend on the permeability and mellowness of the soil, together with constant access of the atmosphere.

As for locality, we fully believe that this, not less important than any of the other points laid down, is too little thought of by the farmer. How often do we see pieces with potatoes, in low, marshy, heavy soil, and as often poor crops, the potatoes after digging very heavy and full of sap, and a few weeks after are half rotten. Experience has proven since the potato plant is naturalized, that high grounds are preferable and still more so, if they possess the qualifications already said, to wit permeability and mellowness. It should be readily drained that no water stagnates between the rows which will invariably produce a heavy potato.

It should also be the aim of farmers to select a piece where surrounding obstacles will not prevent a free draft of the atmosphere. This is a most important point, and is very frequently the cause of *fireblight*. Potatoes are planted near some woody place, orchard, &c. and is not well known that we rarely can expect a good crop? We would recommend, if at all practicable, a place which is open and accessible on all sides by the atmosphere. We could point to numerous instances in our vicinity where this alone was the cause of a failure.

We have now done, and if any of your patrons will give our experiments, &c., a trial, we hope a future will reveal with what success it was attended.

E. K. BEAVER.

Worcester, Penn., Nov., 1853.

Table for Planting Corn, Trees, etc.

The following table may be useful for readily pointing out the number of hills of potatoes and corn, or of plants and trees, &c., required for an acre of land, when planted at any of the undermentioned distances apart:

Distances apart.	No. of Plants.
$\frac{1}{2}$ ft. by $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	174,240
1 " " 1 "	43,560
$1\frac{1}{2}$ " " $1\frac{1}{2}$ "	19,860
1 " " 1 "	21,980
2 " " 2 "	10,890
$2\frac{1}{2}$ " " $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	6,969
3 " " 1 "	14,520
3 " " 2 "	7,260

3 " " 3 "	4,840
$3\frac{1}{2}$ " " $3\frac{1}{2}$ "	3,555
4 " " 1 "	10,890
4 " " 2 "	5,445
4 " " 3 "	3,630
4 " " 4 "	2,722
$4\frac{1}{2}$ " " $4\frac{1}{2}$ "	2,151
5 " " 1 "	8,712
5 " " 2 "	5,356
5 " " 3 "	2,904
5 " " 4 "	2,178
5 " " 5 "	1,742
$5\frac{1}{2}$ " " $5\frac{1}{2}$ "	1,417
6 " " 6 "	1,210
$6\frac{1}{2}$ " " $6\frac{1}{2}$ "	1,031
7 " " 7 "	838
8 " " 8 "	630
9 " " 9 "	521
10 " " 10 "	435

From the Southern Cultivator.

Topping Cotton.

MESSRS. EDITORS: It has never been my intention to trouble you, or the readers of your journal, much; but as the topping of cotton seems to be a question not yet settled, I promised, last year, to give you the result of an experiment I intended to make that season. My cotton on the first of August was so very small—occasioned by the severest drought I have experienced for the last twenty years—I concluded not to top any of my crop, and requested my friend Joseph Ligon, Esq., whose crop was more favored by the rains than mine, to try it, and give me the result of his experiment for the Cultivator. At the time I called on him he could not lay his hand on his memorandum book, consequently, the difference I cannot state. Suffice it to say, the topped cotton made the most, and, he says, it was the most unfavorable year for topping he ever knew. He topped about the first of August. I waited until the 20th, at which time the rain set in. My cotton then would have averaged about two feet high, and not a form on it but what had fallen off, made its bloom or matured into bolls; the growth having been completely checked, and no chance I knew for the rains that had then commenced to make any more on the new growth in time to mature by frost. I, however, thought the bolls might be made larger by topping; and on the 20th I made choice of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land of equal fertility, and the stand as near the same as I could select on 350 acres of land. I commenced

by topping four rows and skipping four, and the result was as follows:

Topped rows made of seed cotton. 554 lbs.
Rows not topped " " " " 517 lbs.

In favor of topping, 37 lbs.

This convinces me that, in Mississippi, at least, more cotton can be made, wet or dry, by topping, for I know, from ocular demonstration, the difference will be much greater a wet season. I will try, though, for four years to come, if I live, for the benefit of those not satisfied, not doubting; in the least, the experiments made by Mr. Rutherford, in Georgia, as different localities may produce different results.

In conclusion, Messrs. Editors; I would like to know, from you or some of your subscribers, the best way to get rid of the water willow. I have tried, by cutting them down, for ten years, the latter part of July and first of August, and still they spring up from the roots as vigorous as ever.

Yours, with respect, E. JINKINS.
Horse Pen, Choctaw, Miss., May, 1853.

Destroying Effluvia.

The North British Agriculturist furnishes a statement of Lindsey Blyth, in relation to a very successful experiment for destroying a most offensive smell in a stable, arising from the decomposition of urine and dung. He tried the mixture of Epsom salts and plaster of Paris, (gypsum)—the most wonderful effects followed—the stable keeper was delighted. Previously, the stable was damp and unwholesome; and if closed for a few hours, the ammoniacal vapors were suffocating. After sprinkling the sulphates underneath the straw, and along the channel of the drain, the smell disappeared, and even the walls became drier. He recommends as an economical preparation for this purpose and for sewers, magnesia-limestone dissolved in sulphuric acid, (forming sulphate of magnesia, or Epsom salts,) with a portion of superphosphate of lime (made by dissolving bone in sulphuric acid)—these, at the same time that they retain the escaping ammonia, also add greatly by their own presence to the value of the manure.

Propagation of Plants by Layers.

This is the time to multiply plants by the process called Layering:

The mode of doing this is to spade up the ground lightly around the plant to be multi-

plied. Then select a branch of this year's growth, and near a bud, which will be buried, cut in through the bark, and then turn the knife upward toward the point of the branch, and slit it up a little way. Then make a little ditch in the earth and bend down the branch into it, so that the place cut will be on the bottom of it, and pin it down with the wooden pins, that have a hook in their tops. Bury this part two or three inches and see that it be kept moist.

Roots will start from the point that has been cut. In the spring or late in the fall the branch thus rooted may be separated from the parent stock, and set out to begin life on its own strength. Some only cut in a notch near the bud that they bury, and some do nothing; but the branches are found to root quicker by being slit as above directed.—Grapes, currants, gooseberries, roses, shrubs, &c., are very easily multiplied in this way.

"He who by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."

To turn under a coat of weeds, grass, or pea vines, and cover it snugly with the subsoil, requires something more than an old fashioned scooter, shovel or twister. The common plow which you see in most of our fields, with a mule in advance laying down to it with all his might, and a nigger behind standing on tip-toe, doing his best to keep it in the ground; his arms jerking all the while as if he had "the ager," never can be made to do good service in the restoration of our soils. We want something that will run easily and smoothly through the soil, turning under everything that comes in its way to be converted into food for plants. A plow properly constructed will do the work with half the power applied to it, that will be required by one of these old fashioned fixings.

The Yankee plows are objectionable, because they are mostly cast metal—they will not stand the rough usage of our negroes, or the roots, stumps, and rock we leave in our fields. If we would introduce them, however, we would soon show our mechanics what we need, and set them to studying out.—Head work is what we want; a little mental ingenuity directed to this subject, would, in a short time, work out an implement exactly suited to our purpose. A starting point must be found—we must try a Yankee plow first, and then improve upon it. We have brains as well as the Yankees; we have

skill, mental as well as manual dexterity amongst us, if it could only be drawn out. No other profession hesitates to throw aside an old-fashioned tool, when he finds a better one invented for his use—why should we? It is astonishing to witness the dogged determination with which a fellow works on with an old scooter, while his nearest neighbor, only a fence between them, is daily doing twice the work, more efficiently, with half the labor. Every other profession has called to its aid science and skill, and are fast moving past us; but here is old Father Staudstill holding on to our coat button and telling us it's all nonsense, humbug, book farming and foolery.

How many men know when they walk into a field, whether their horses are pulling the plow with the least amount of power, and doing, at the same time, the best work? Yet this is based upon principle, upon a scientific principle, as plain and unalterable as the work of the leyer. A glance of the eye will detect it, and yet we know men who have been plowing all their lives, and would laugh outright at us for asserting any such nonsensical heresy. Think a little gentlemen, and give us your notions on improvement.—*Unionville Journal*.

Cure for Diarrhœa.—Various experiments detailed in an exchange, go to prove that this troublesome disease may be effectually cured by the use of strawberry leaves. In the most severe cases, and after other well tried remedies have failed a tea of strawberry leaves has checked the disease in a few hours, and restored the patient to health. For light attacks, instead of calling a physician, let the patient eat a few green leaves of the strawberry plant, and cure themselves.

WINTER PLOWING.—All stiff clays which are not naturally wet, that may be intended for spring crops, should be plowed this month, to allow the frost to break down their texture; but such lands should not be plowed when they are in a wet condition, but when they are moderately moist.

To Bleach a Faded Dress.—Wash the dress in hot soda water, and boil it until the color appears to be gone; then rinse and dry it in the sun. Should it not be rendered white by these means, lay the dress in the open air, and bleach it for several days. If still not quite white, repeat the boiling.—*Ex.*



The Farmer and Planter.

PENDLETON, S. C.

Vol. V., No. 1: : : January, 1854.

The Year of our Lord, 1854.

With sentiments of profound respect for the memory of such of our friends as commenced with us the journey of 1853, and who have parted company with us and gone to that home from whence no traveller returns, and with the tender of our condolence with the immediate relations and friends of the same, we salute our surviving companions with the compliments of the season. Trusting that they have passed a merry Christmas, with all our heart we wish them a happy new year. And may not only the beginning but the end with all intermediate time—may the whole year prove not only the happiest but most prosperous of their life; and so far as it is our business to contribute to either we hereby pledge our untiring efforts. Trusting the obligation will be mutually observed. Let us help one another; help begets help between editor and patron; therefore, help us, friends, and you thereby help yourselves. We want help in various ways—we desire the help of the many able pens that have heretofore sustained us and our good cause, as well as of very many others who have stood off and not contributed their mite to the common fund. We are not so very self-sufficiently wise in our own conceit as to believe that we know more than any body else, or that we alone can make up a paper worthy of your patronage; we have no such variety. We therefore ask the assistance of every subscriber in making up a paper that may be acceptable to all. We want your help in persuading your neighbors to drop their foolish notions about “book farming,” and to encourage them to do as you have done, to subscribe and pay for the Farmer and Planter, the oldest agricultural paper in the State, and one at least as much devoted to their interest as any other in the State. Our prospects so far are flattering. May yours be so, and may you realize all we hope to do in the year 1854—a fair recompense for all your cares and labors. Be cheerful, be content and go to work with a right good will to do your duty and leave the consequences with the great “I AM.”

Our New Form.

Believing it will be more acceptable to our readers, we make our appearance in a new form, although it subjects us to some additional expense to do so. Yet we do not appear as we desire and *intend* doing as soon as we may be able to procure a new head. For the present we must use the old one cut down to suit the width of our columns, which gives it an awkward appearance. It will be seen that notwithstanding our pages are smaller we have 24 instead of 16 as heretofore, so that our readers will lose nothing by the change of form in the amount of matter contained, but will have a more convenient form for binding and preservation for future reference.

Our Visits to Columbia.

Yes, kind reader, our *visits*, for we have actually taken two rides on the rail road to the Capitol of our State and back during the session of our Legislature. We are in for it at last, and as it is not only fashionable for Editors to ride on railroads, but to give to their readers an account of what they have done, seen or heard, we presume it will be expected of us, one of the humblest of the fraternity, in our unpretending way, to perform our part in the drama.

Necessary and unavoidable duties at home having prevented our visiting the great Crystal Palace Exhibition, as well as several important agricultural fairs at the South, we had promised ourselves the pleasure of visiting the annual meeting of the South Carolina Institute at Charleston, which was subsequently postponed; and also the annual meeting of the "Agricultural Association of the Planting or Slave-holding States, to be held in Columbia, S. C. on the first day of December. To be present at this meeting, as well as to attend to some business that would be brought before the Legislature in which we were individually interested, and last, tho' not least, to make our acquaintance, and shake with a good corial grip the hands of many of our old and highly esteemed subscribers, as well as very many who were not subscribers, and thereby, through our own and the exertions of our friends, the Pendleton delegation and others, who had kindly proffered their aid, to advance the interests of our paper. We left home on Sunday the 27th November, and staid the first night with our friend HOLCOMBE, at Anderson, who keeps a good house, and with his attentive assistant, Mr. GEORGE, will not fail to render his friends comfortable as long as they may remain with him. Monday morning at about 6 o'clock we took the cars in company with several friends, both members and constituents—but lest our tale be long, we must hie on with rail road haste—for Columbia, where, after a pleasant ride of about 9 hours, we safely arrived. We have heard much complaint of the road from Anderson to Columbia, being rough and crooked, but being used to riding in an old rough-going buggy on badly worked country roads, we really thought the road remarkably smooth, and as to crooks, if there were any we

travelled so fast we did not discover them. The Conductors, Mr. Jackson from Anderson to Belton, and Maj. Ioor from Belton to Columbia, we were not disappointed to find polite gentlemen, and attentive to their business.

On arriving at Columbia, we, at the instance of our travelling companions put up at Hunt's Hotel, which, as represented by them, we found to be an excellent house and rarely equalled and more rarely surpassed. Mr. Hunt, as well as Mr. Fanning, his accommodating assistant are polite gentlemen, and always in place and ready to administer to the wants and comforts of their friends. The table is well laid and well supplied. The servants sufficiently numerous, attentive, and prompt in their duties. The rooms are kept in good order, the beds clean and comfortable. Indeed there seems to be system and order in all things at Hunt's, rarely to be found at large hotels. Of late years we have not been much of a cosmopolite but we are quite sure that in our travels, we have found no house except that of our friend JANNEY'S, (on the opposite corner, and of which we shall hereafter speak) at all equal to Hunt's. We are told, however, there are other excellent houses in Columbia. At Hunt's we roomed with our friends Doctors Broyles and Brown.

On the 1st of December we attended the meeting of the Agricultural Association, some account of which will be found on another page. We also attended the subsequent meetings for the transaction of business in the day, and the hearing of Essays and speeches at night, till Saturday morning, when we left for home. We heard several excellent and most interesting essays and address. An essay by Col. Croom of Alabama, on the adaptation of the grasses and clovers to the South. Another by Mr. J. Van Buren, of Clarksville, Ga., on the fruits of the South, a part of which appears in our present number. Addresses by Dr. Bachman, Dr. Lipcomb, and Mr. Ravenel. Some other addresses after we left, and before we returned to Columbia, which we had not the pleasure to hear, especially one by Judge Oncall on the management of slaves.

We arrived at home, 12 miles from the head of the road, on Saturday night to supper, having breakfasted in Columbia. Think of that, ye slanderers of rail-roads, will you still cry "wait for the wagon." By-the-by, speaking of breakfasting in Columbia and supping at home reminds us of where we got most excellent dinner on the road, and where, had the gentleman acted with a little more liberality towards us, without materially injuring himself, we might have had another on our last return, but which we denied ourself the pleasure of taking.

Arriving at home and making some preparations for wheat sowing, which had been thus long delayed, waiting for guano, ordered long before, and finding some friends about to set out for Columbia, we, with some persuasion from them, backed by our own inclination, set out again on Tuesday, and arrived at Columbia, on Wednesday evening.—

On arriving we found every Hotel filled from kitchen to garret, to overflowing. We were "buss'd" about the town until we began to suspect the driver was on his way with us to the Lunatic Asylum, and ventured to remonstrate with him, he said "it looked very much like it, indeed," but he was only taking a lady to a friend's house in that quarter. This assurance relieved us very much, and we returned to friend Janney's to make another effort, but with no better success, till our young friend, IZAS J. RICE, the talented Editor of the S. R. Advocate, who travelled down with us, and stuck to us "like a brother," even to the asylum, remarked to us that all we wanted was a bed.—that we could obtain an ample supply for the inner man at Janney's, and that he had a room reserved for him some distance up town, which he would with pleasure share with us. This kind offer we gladly accepted of our respected young friend, whose polite attention will not soon be forgotten. "A friend in need is a friend in deed," says the old copy.

At night we had the pleasure of hearing an excellent address delivered at the State House, by Mr. Brumby, before the Agricultural Association. After Mr. Brumby had concluded, Mr. Warren, of the Camden Journal, delivered the first Anniversary Oration before the Press Association. We were afterwards invited by our young friend Rice to accompany him to a meeting of the Association at Dr. Gibbs' but being fatigued and somewhat indisposed, we thought it prudent to deny ourselves the pleasure which we are sure we should have enjoyed. We should have been pleased to become a member of the Association but this being the last meeting it held, we had no opportunity afterwards of making application. We were pleased however to make the acquaintance of many gentlemen of the press, from different parts of our State, and of the talented and polite editor of the Cotton Planter, Dr. Cloud of Alabama.

After this we roomed with our neighbors, Maj. Simpson and Col. Pickens, on account of their room being situated nearer to the hotel, till they left, when we had full possession. Not long, however, for the next morning we were, as we suspect, finessed out of this room by two young bucks from Charleston, who as we understood, came up to attend a wedding, perhaps as grooms-men. Being once more thrown upon the "cold charities of the world," we, with carpet-bag in hand, again made our way to the open door of our friend Rice, whose picture we have already given—we give this as its reversed side. Now-a-days we have very many progressive Young Americans, and too many of them wanting of a due respect for old age.

We saw in Columbia some fine animals, of which we shall speak at another time. We also by invitation visited the fine garden and hot house of Mr. Russell, where we saw in great profusion trees, shrubs, and plants the habitats of all climates from the frozen poles to the burning tropics. A friend in Georgia enquires of us where he can pro-

enure the Tea plant. If he will apply to Mr. Russell, he can be supplied with either potted plants or seed. Mr. R. has the largest tea plant we have ever seen, we did not measure it, but think it is near 5 feet high and well branched out. Our lady friends wanting flowering plants of any description will be promptly and cheaply supplied on application to Mr. Russell.

During our stay in Columbia we were frequently either in the House of Representatives or in the Senate Chamber; in the former, through the polite attention of our delegation, we were allowed a seat during the session. And we would here take occasion to tender to them our unfeigned thanks for their kind and courteous attention to us during our stay. We have reason to be proud of our representation—may it ever be so. We were much interested with the proceeding of the Legislature and embraced our privilege with pleasure, not however to report "speeches for Buncombe;" we would therefore say to the young gentleman who we heard remark to another that he had a great mind to move to expel every d—d reporter from the floor, we are not one of them. It is true, we believe, as he remarked, that but for the reporters, there would not be half the speeches made that are, yet we are not in favor of, especially, an enlightened body of legislators "hiding their light under a bushel," and if such a move was made, the "reporter's," influence, would soon expel the mover from a seat in the House. But our article is growing, we fear, tiresome to our readers, we must therefore hasten to a conclusion.

From Wednesday the 7th to Friday the 16th we remained under the most hospitable roof of our urbane and kind hearted host, Janney, who is said, by some one of our fraternity, perhaps Col. Perry, to be "the prince of hotel keepers." We subscribe to this sentiment with all our heart, as we presume all other editors would, for we find they are all devoted subjects. This is saying much in favor of Janney, for editors, of all other men, except perhaps, methodist preachers, know best where to go to get a good dinner, or good entertainment, although they may not live like princes at home. And not only do editors, but all others, even the ladies flock to Janney's, so as to lead a stranger to the conclusion on arriving at his house that there was surely not another house of entertainment in the whole town of Columbia, which would be a great mistake, however, for there are many others, and good houses as we have been informed, and as we have good reason to know there is one of the most dangerous rivals right on the opposite corner, and yet "Janney's," "Janney's" is the cry—the whole world and "the rest of mankind" are flocking to Janney's. As well be out of the world as out of the fashion, so friends when you go to Columbia go to Janney's,

...there try Hunt. ...
with either go home—you are not at home.

With an apology to our readers for occupying so much of our space with subjects that may be considered illegitimate to our paper, we make our best salams to them for their patience in waiting us out.

To Correspondents.

Several articles intended for the present number have come to hand after our paper was made up; they shall appear in our next. We much regret that the article from our correspondent P. was received too late for insertion; we have forwarded it to M. W. P. according to his request, but hope to hear from him on the same subject in time for our next. B. V. Iverson to "Broomsedge" on the subject of the Rescued grass will interest many of our readers we are sure.

To our constant friend, Abbeville, especially, we are due an apology for dividing his article, the conclusion of which shall appear in our next.

Wm. R. D. of Sarepta, Miss., will accept our thanks for list of subscribers and Oregon peasant closed us, which last we have turned over to his "old friend and neighbor." F. B., as we have a supply on hand, the seed of which was sent us last spring by our highly esteemed correspondent, "Broomsedge."

H. E., of Columbia, S. C., will accept our thanks for his list of new subscribers, and for the information given us respecting saw mills. We extract a part of his letter, as it may be of importance to others as well as to us. He writes as follows:

"You see Pincy Woods has done something for the cause; I send you four dollars," &c. * * * "In your last Farmer and Planter, I see you wish for some information respecting saw mills. You can have my experience. For the last eight years I have used the Hotchkiss cast iron wheel. If you have plenty of water I think they will answer finely. They are certainly very powerful, taking 24 square inches of water. My saw works on rods 1½ inches in diameter attached to the fender posts, and works very smoothly. I work her with two hands and she will easily saw 1500 feet of timber per day, I mean ¾ and inch plank. Any information you wish will be given if you conclude to build on the Hotchkiss plan."

J. B., Silvertown, S. C., who writes us that as he has not been able to procure an additional subscriber he will take two numbers himself and give one away, is the right sort of a man to sustain an agricultural paper. Many of our friends are doing well for us: all of them have our unfeigned thanks. How many more might do as J. B. has done, and thus place our paper in the family of a poor but worthy man who may not be able to pay for it himself. We have known, a few years since, a single member of Congress to subscribe for 50 perhaps 100 copies of an agricultural paper to distribute to his poor constituents. We believe it

was in Georgia and the subscription for the Southern Cultivator.

We have received many letters not included for publication, such as the one from which the following extract is taken. We publish this to show that Pincy Woods has done us some service by his "suggestions." In answer to the writer N. W. D., we have sent you one of the Almanacs, none for the present year have come to hand. We presume they may be had on application to the book stores in Charleston.

Many thanks are due to kind friends for their exertions in favor of your paper."

"Messrs. Editors: At the suggestion of Pincy Woods, I inform you that I will renew my subscription; also send you a new subscriber, R. Beau, to commence with the January number, 1854—same office. I could enclose the money, but at your proposal.

"I enclose a 3 cent piece for one of Aileck's Almanacs. Can his new ones be obtained of you?

"I earnestly hope that each subscriber will come up with his man and ably sustain our paper, the oldest and decidedly best agricultural paper in the State. Yours truly, N. W. D."

Editors' Table.

Patent Office Reports, 1852, '53.—Through the polite attention of the Hon. C. M. Mason, Commissioner of Patents, we are in receipt of these two volumes with which we are much pleased so far as we have had time to examine them. The mechanical work is superior to any of its predecessors.

An Address before the Indiana State Agricultural Society at its Annual Fair, Lafayette, Indiana, Oct. 13, 1853, BY HORACE GREELY.—To some friend we are indebted for this able address on "what the sister arts teach as to farming," from which we shall make for our readers some interesting extracts. It is published in handsome pamphlet form by the Messrs. Fowlers & Wells, of New York, who leave the imprint of neatness on everything that passes through their hands. It is strange to us that everybody don't subscribe for their excellent works, the Phrenological and Water Cure Journals.

The Peoples' Journal.—An illustrated record of agriculture, mechanics, science and useful knowledge, published monthly by Alfred E. Beach, New York. Every number contains 32 pages of Letter Press, beautifully printed on fine paper and profusely illustrated with engravings. We have received No. 2, vol. 1 of this superior work with upwards of 70 engravings. Would be pleased to receive No. 1. Terms only 50 cents per annum.

Advertisements.—We call the attention of our readers to our Columbia advertisements. We have more to say on this subject but for want of room must postpone for our next number. In the mean time if you want any thing in the line of either of our advertisers, send to them and we are right sure all will be satisfactory.

The Convention.

We give below an account of the proceedings of the Agricultural Convention, at Columbia, which we take from the South Carolinian. By agreement between Dr. Cloud, the Secretary, Col. Summer and, ourself, the essays and addresses were to be divided between the Cotton Planter, Southern Agriculturist and the Farmer and Planter. Just before leaving Columbia, the Essay from Mr. Van Buren was sent us by Mr. Stokes, of the Herald. Whether we are to have any more we cannot say. We can, if we choose, however, republish from the other papers, and presume they will not depreciate in value from a month or two's additional age.

We procured a handfull of the Dean Cotton seed, and hope to be able to report on them in due time.

The grass which was exhibited as the Muskite, we found to be quite different from that, the seed of which was presented a few years since, in small parcels, to the members of our Legislature, by Col. Hampton, which was nothing more nor less than the *holcus lanatus*, or woolly soft grass of England, and what we have known about old Pendleton for years, as the velvet or white-top grass, and of the seed of which we had a barrel, as we informed one of our members when he offered us a portion of what he had received. The musquite grass presented to the Association seems to be a variety of the oat grass family:

Agricultural Convention,

THURSDAY, Dec. 1st, 1853.

In accordance with previous arrangement, the annual meeting of the Agricultural Association of the Planting or Slaveholding States assembled yesterday, in the Town Hall, at 10 o'clock, a. m.

In the absence of the President, Col. A. G. Summer, was temporarily called to the chair.

The Association proceeded to elect a vice-president, when the Hon. R. F. W. Allston was chosen, and took the Chair as president *pro tem*.

Dr. N. B. Cloud, Secretary of the Association, read the proceedings of the last meeting held in the State of Alabama, which were approved. The Constitution was read.

In obedience to an invitation, seconded by some spirited remarks from Col. Summer, a number of gentlemen came forward and signed the Constitution.

A letter was read from John H. Newton, esq., Chairman of a Committee appointed at the last assembly to take into consideration the propriety of establishing means for Agricultural education, regretting his inability to be present, and expressing earnest wishes for the prosecution of the suggestion. On motion the subject was temporarily laid aside.

A number of essays were announced as received from several members, on various subjects of moment to the planting and other interests, and measures taken to secure addresses, &c. during the present session.

A number of specimens of cotton seeds, &c. were distributed among the members.

The Association adjourned to half-past 6 o'clock.

FRIDAY, Dec. 2, 1853.

The Association met this day at 10 o'clock, a. m. as per adjournment. The proceedings of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion of Mr. Croom, of Alabama,

Resolved, That Mr. Edwin Ruffin, of Va., and Dr. John Bachman, D. D., LL. D., be elected honorary members of this Association.

On motion of Mr. Whyte, the letter of Mr. C. B. Stewart, of Texas, was read, accompanying the specimens of the Muskite Grass, which he so kindly sent the Association; when an interesting and lively discussion sprang up on the subject of the various (to us as yet) muskite grasses, &c., at the conclusion of which McAliley, of South Carolina, moved that Mr. Stewart's letter be published with the proceedings of this meeting of the Association; which was so ordered.

On motion of Col. Isaac Croom, of Alabama, the following preamble and resolutions were introduced:

Whereas the establishment of a Central Agricultural College, which shall provide the best means of instruction in all the sciences and learning pertaining to agriculture and its kindred arts, is indispensable for accomplishing one of the great purposes of this Association, which is the reformation and

improvement of Southern Agriculture.—
Therefore

Resolved, That a Southern Central Agricultural College shall be established as early as early as practicable, subject to the control and direction of this Association and to be located at such place as may be selected at the next or some subsequent annual meeting of the same.

2d. Resolved, That to aid in accomplishing this great work, the Secretary of our Association be required to receive the subscriptions of the members and all other persons disposed to contribute, which shall be paid in such proportions and at such times as shall be designated at some future annual meeting of the Association.

3d. Resolved, that the Executive council of this Association be authorized and required to appoint at their discretion such committees and individuals in the Southern States, to solicit subscriptions for the purpose, and on the conditions before specified.

4th. Resolved, That when the sum of one hundred thousand dollars shall be subscribed, the Association shall, at its first annual meeting thereafter, locate the College, and provide for the collection of the subscriptions, and the erection of one or more suitable buildings, so far as their means will admit.

5th. Resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that the Association should, at its next annual meeting, or so soon thereafter as the amount of subscriptions shall amount to one hundred thousand dollars, memorialize Congress and the Legislatures of the Southern States, for the purpose of obtaining their aid in the completion of a work which involves so much of the welfare, not only of the South, but of the entire confederacy.

The importance of the subject and the expediency of their adoption by the Association were advocated by Col. Croom of Ala. and by Mr. Henry Sumner, of South Carolina.

On motion of Mr. McAliley, of South Carolina, these resolutions were ordered to be printed, and made the special order of the day for Monday next, at 6 o'clock, p. m., in the Hall of the House of Representatives.

Mr. McAliley, urged the importance of this subject as contemplated in the organization and constitution of this Association, insinuating that a full discussion of the subject should be had.

On motion the Association adjourned to meet at 10 o'clock, a. m., on Saturday, in the Town Hall.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Experience with Wheat and Corn.

MESSRS. EDITORS: The following is my experience in cultivating wheat and corn:

Wheat.—When you take your wheat out of soak, put it in a box or some other place, so that it can't lose; then throw in as much ashes as will stick to the wheat. I think it answers the same purpose as lime; it does not injure the hands like lime. In the spring of 1852 I planted the land in corn and peas that had been in wheat the year previous. I manured the poorest spots in the hill with stable manure; the manure was made by putting leaves in the stables and lots. I drilled my corn and planted peas in the step at the second plowing. When I gathered my corn I turned all my stock, horses, cattle and hogs, in the field to gather the peas. The wheat was sowed between the 20th of November and 10th of December. On the poor spots where I manured with stable manure, I sowed cotton seed at the time of sowing my wheat, plowed all in together with a twister, burying all, both pea vines and trash.

I made this year fifteen bushels to one sown, without any other preparation than here stated.

Corn.—I broke up my land as soon as I could, with a bulltongue plow. When I planted my corn I put the manure in the hill and dropped the corn on it and covered with a twister by throwing two furrows on it and striking off with a board in 8 or 10 days. I also run a subsoil coultter in the same furrow where I run the twister in covering the corn. I also run the subsoil coultter around the corn at the first working, and broke out the middles with the bulltongue plow. I then plowed three times with the buzzard or sweep. My corn kept green to the ground, notwithstanding we had eight weeks drought while others in the settlement complained of their burning up. This was on upland. My bottom land I broke up as soon as I could, with a bulltongue, as deep as I could. I then let it alone until just before planting. I then took a one-horse twister and broke it as deep as I could. I also had a one-horse subsoil coultter and run in the same furrow with the twister; plowed one time with the bull-tongue,

then used the sweep; altogether made fine corn.

Please excuse bad writing and mistakes, as I am not accustomed to writing for agricultural papers.

J. W. L.

Thickety Fork, S. C., Nov. 9, 1853.

For the Farmer and Planter.

Florida, as it Appeared in 1853.

BY ABBEVILLE.

The machinery of the Universe has marked another year in the calendar of eternity, the unrest and bustle of the year has faded away, and resolved into another round of seasons calling upon the farmer for a renewal of his industrial energies. The past year was remarkable, climatically, and otherwise; when hope failed, and the prospect of a real want blanched every cheek, the elements, as it were, relented, and the clouds no longer refused to the parched field the life-renewing showers, and bread in plenty resulted to sustain and cherish us in the journey of life. This should not fail to impress us with a deep sense of our dependance and reliance upon an all bountiful and ever caring Providence, to whose throne, the breath of the new-born year should bear one universal anthem of praise from all the inhabitants of the earth, for all are involved. The success of the farmer is in intimate connection with all the pursuits of life—every branch of human industry is dependant for existence on the productions of the soil. To the observant, there is now and has been, a considerable state of unrest among the farmers of this State. The much talked of productions of East-Florida has stirred up the acquisitiveness of many, and every steamer of late, has been freighted with a living cargo to explore this land of flowers, long cotton, and sugar cane. Many have returned satisfied of the great fact, that every land has its good and its evil, and that in nature, there is a certain balancing and compensating principle, and that the world is more equalized than they supposed.

The impression of these truths upon the human mind, is a sufficient compensation for the expense and toil of travel, and man returns home better satisfied with all around him, calculated, by experience, to sum up all the existing differences, and make legitimate comparisons. The writer is just off a kind of gallopade travel in East-Florida, and saw many of his countrymen, looking eagerly for lands to locate, in this sunny and balmy

climate. Eighteen hours from Charleston by steamer brings you to the mouth of one of the most beautiful rivers in the world, the St. Johns. It is truly, as its Indian name implies, a driver of lakes. Almost without a current, its dark waters appear to linger in their bed, with no disturbance but Ocean's tidal ebb and flow. Well might the red-man cling instinctively to this bright mirror of the heavens, with its myriads of living things sporting in its wave, affording sport and subsistence. The bar at the mouth of St. Johns, is not in harmony with the river it guards, it is shallow with breakers all about. Long rows of pelicans are seen on each side of the vessel, as if to guard the entrance. When once fairly in the river the steamer works her way through its peaceful waters in fine style. The distant shores generally too far off to discern with any distinctness one object from another; steam saw-mills are frequently to be seen, known from their smoke-chimneys, and piles of lumber that surrounds them; head-land after head-land is doubled, ever and anon presenting a varied scene of wood and water, pleasant to look upon, with a sky that Italia's boasted softness can hardly rival. Now the steamer whistle breathes its harsh note, the bell tolls, and Jacksonville is reached, when the eager crowds of human beings throng the wharf as the steamer nears—passengers pass off and on, mails are exchanged, goods landed, and all is bustle and hurry during the brief stay. The plank is hauled in, the bell rings, the escape valve is closed, and the huge thing is again paddling and puffing away, to renew the same kind of a scene at Picolata; this past, and she plows her way to Palatka, which is reached in the evening. The steaming up this river is a treat which well repays for the stomach revolting at old Neptune's rockings. The Captains of these steamers are gentlemanly in every sense; passengers are cared for in bed and board. Better tables are kept on board these steamers, than at most of our crack hotels, the servants well trained and attentive, the price of passage reasonable enough, all things considered. Palatka is yet a small place, but must ere long be a place of some consequence, from the cotton and sugar that will be produced on the rich hammock and good pine lands of the interior. Here we met with Col. Devall, formerly of Abbeville District who keeps a steam-boat wharf for receiving and forwarding goods. We were

warmly received by the Col., who sat before us night after night as delicious oranges as we ever tasted, they were raised up the river somewhere above Palatka—they are sold here at 2½ cents each. We here met several acquaintances, and passed a pleasant time in the Colonel's office.

After a good night's rest on board the steamer *Colonia* by the polite invitation of Captain Coxetter, we started on a Florida stage for Ocala, the seat of justice for Marion County, about sixty miles distant—fare, six dollars. The roads are pretty good for a new country, the sand in some parts, deep with now and then cross-ways, which gives the traveller just jolting enough to prepare him for dinner at Orange Springs, at which place is a large hotel for the reception of travellers, and comfortable quarters for many invalids, that seek in this climate a respite from death. We felt gloomy at seeing so many wretched and suffering specimens of poor humanity, struggling for prolonged existence. The lands between Palatka and Orange Spring are mostly sandy pine-woods, with occasional hammock, and what is, in Florida, called oak-land—land on which grows oak and hickory, with a much less per cent of sand in the soil, the outcropping rocks are a sort of sand-stone with casts of shells but almost entirely without lime.—Our only test of the absence of lime was hydrochloric acid, which gave no reaction with this rock. Some portion of the pine lands appear to be a white barren sand, the growth stunted, and similar to some of our sand-hills in South Carolina. These spots appear the favorite dwelling places of the Gopher (*Testudo polipheims*) and the Salamander (pouchod rat) whose hills and holes are the most conspicuous on these barrens. The wire grass is often wanting here.

CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT.

Friend ABBEVILLE will please pardon the injustice done him by dividing his article so abruptly. The crowded state of our columns is our excuse.—Eds.

Millet Grass, &c.—Queries Answered.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I see in your November No. that Millet grass is highly recommended—can you furnish any of the seed, or inform me where they can be procured? I should like to try it. Indeed I am anxious to try several of the cultivated grasses and clovers, but have as yet been deterred by the great difficulty of getting fresh seed, at

any thing like a reasonable price.

Would it not be better to sow Millet earlier than yours was sown? By sowing in April, or May, could not two or three cuttings be realized?(a)

I see that one of your correspondents highly recommends a new grass called "Rescue." I am afraid however that the only thing it is designed to rescue, is the money out of the pockets of the unwary. If I really thought it would accomplish all that is promised for it, I would have some of the seed were they to cost their weight in gold. Is it not of the same species of the "Southern" or "Yellow Clover," which originated in Alabama a year since, and which was to do wonders for the whole world, and the South in particular. If I am not mistaken you gave the clover a trial. Did it succeed?(b)

I planted a small quantity of lucerne seed last spring—they came up very badly, but what did come up grew well. I am of the opinion it will do finely in the upper part of the State.(c)

An "Island Planter," in your November No., says, "to raise barley, it is absolutely necessary that it should be sown in land rather sandy, and either naturally rich or made so by liberal manuring." Now as to the richness of the soil, I fully agree with him, but as to the sand, I enter a demurrer. I have sown barley for the last few years, and have found that it succeeds well on stiff, red clay. I have sown this fall three small lots, (all perhaps amounting to an acre and a half) and I hope to save as much corn by it as would grow on twice the amount of ground, although sand is almost entirely deficient in the soil. An old and intelligent planter of this district informed me that he had sown barley for thirty years, and that he always succeeded best on old red land, made thoroughly rich by manuring. I would recommend all persons who have a horse, a sheep, or a calf, to sow barley. For winter and spring pasture it excels any thing I have ever seen, and for soiling it cannot be beat. For pasturage, it should be sown by 15th September, or earlier—though I have known it make excellent grain sown 1st of December. A good plan is to sow several lots in succession—say one every month, from August to December.(d)

You cannot too strongly urge upon your readers the necessity of devoting more attention to the small grains—grasses, for hay, and meadows, and the rearing of stock,

as I am fully convinced the permanent improvement of our lands depend upon it. (e)

The above was not written for publication, but if there is an idea of any value, you can use it as you see proper.

Wishing you increased prosperity for the next volume, I am, respectfully, yours,

R. F. W.

REMARKS.—(a.)—It is out of our power to furnish any of the millet seed. They may be had of Messrs. Landreths, of Charleston, where we procured them at a very high price, (\$7.50 per bushel) and probably from R. Sinclair & Co., Baltimore, on better terms. We have purchased different kinds of seed from them which proved to be good. It would be better to sow earlier as it is said to yield two or three cuttings in the season if not allowed to advance too far before cutting.

(b.) We can form no opinion of the "Rescue grass" except from what we have seen from Mr. Iverson on the subject. That it comes fully up to the character given of it by Mr. I. on his, perhaps, rich calcareous soil, we cannot doubt, as he is said to be a gentleman of the strictest integrity. Yet it may not succeed in every climate and on every variety of soil; as was the case with the Yellow Clover, which no doubt succeeded with the gentleman who gave it notoriety, but failed with many others, on a different soil, ourselves included. The Rescue grass and the Yellow Clover are not of the same species.

(c.) We have grown Lucerne for many years and have found it to be all that its warmest advocates have said in its favor.

(d.) Barley has succeeded well with us on very stiff land when made sufficiently rich and dry. The barley plant is said to contain more *silica* than any other grain cultivated, and hence it is believed that the grain of barley grown on sandy soils is superior to any other.

(e.) This is good advice friend W. and nothing could please us more than that our paper should be the medium through which so salutary a change in the agriculture of our country might be effected. Our lands are yearly running down, becoming less and less productive so that about four-fifths of all that is cultivated in the State scarcely pays for the labor bestowed on our crops; and yet a majority of us are following the old beaten track of our fathers, decrying "book farming" and making no effort to improve the sad condition of our worn out and exhausted lands. But something *must* be done, and that quickly, or we must pull up pegs and cry "ho for the west." That we never shall improve under our present system all who think must admit.

That to improve we must adopt a system of rotations best suited to our soil and climate we think none can deny. In perfecting such system, that the small grains and grasses must occupy a more conspicuous position in the line than heretofore we do not nor have ever doubted. We are

tought "he that doubts is damned." Would that we had fewer doubters, and more disposed to listen to the dictates of reason and common sense.

In conclusion, friend W., we thank you for your communication; we do think there are several ideas in it of much value to our readers; and as you have put your hands to the plow we trust you will not look back. We are pleased to hear from practical men. A simple detail of his own operations on his farm is worth a thousand highly wrought speculations.

Cotton Seed.

It can be no longer questioned that the cotton seed, in many parts of our country, is fast degenerating, and we hear frequent complaints from the planters on this subject.

The plants, in many places, are not as vigorous in growth nor in the quantity and quality produced as formerly. We are assured that the staple of the cotton is being seriously affected by this degeneration of the cotton seed. Various reasons are assigned. One thinks it is owing to the condition of the soil or the state of the weather; another thinks it is owing to the defective manner of culture; "I must change my seed," says a third; and thus a variety of conjectures are started. The reason of this degeneration is made to appear when we consider that, year after year, our planters pitch their crops with seed taken promiscuously from the field. In the very nature of things it must dwindle and become dwarfish in the course of time; and notwithstanding it depreciates under their eyes, they still pursue the same insane policy. Upon the same principle your stock of horses, cattle or hogs would degenerate and run out. We do not wonder, therefore, that your cotton is seriously affected. You do nothing to improve it, to give it vigor of growth or constitution.

There is no need to change your seed; all that you have to do is to pass through your fields and select your seed from those plants that exhibit most vigor of growth and produce the greatest number of bolls. Plant those to themselves, and then cull again as before; or else select a few acres, and plant it exclusively with the best seed, selected as above, and in one or two years you will have superior seed, if not better than can be obtained anywhere else. If you are too negligent or lazy to make the necessary improvements, no complaints should fall from your lips.

The famous seeds, about which so much

is said, and for which such high prices are paid, have been brought up to this high state of culture by the means stated above, and by proper crossing kept up for a series of years.

Try the plan indicated, and you will find a vast improvement in the quality and quantity of your cotton.—*Southern Organ.*

To Keep Tires Tight on Wheels.

MR. EDITOR: I wish to communicate to the public a method by which tires on wheel carriages are kept tight. I ironed a wagon some years ago for my own use, and before putting on the tires I filled the felloes with linseed oil, and the tires have worn out and were never loose. I ironed a buggy for my own use, seven years ago, and the tires are now as tight as when put on. My method of filling the felloes with oil is as follows: I use a long cast iron oil heater, made for the purpose, (a pattern of which I have left with Messrs. Taylor & Sewell, of Charlottesville;) the oil is brought to a boiling heat, the wheel is placed on a stick, so as to hang in the oil, each felloe one hour, for a common-sized felloe.

The timber should be dry, as green timber will not receive oil. Care should be taken that the oil be made no hotter than a boiling heat, in order that the timber be not burnt. Timber filled with oil is not susceptible of water, and the timber is much more durable. I was amused some time ago, when I told a blacksmith how to keep tires tight on wheels, by his telling me it was a profitable business to tighten tires; and the wagon maker will say, it is profitable to him to make and repair wheels; but what will the farmer, who supports the wheelwright and smith say? T. H. BROWN.

Brown's Cove, March, 1853.

[Our old friend, Thomas H. Brown, is well known to us as a man of very fine mechanical genius. He can make any thing he pleases out of wood or metal, and whatever he advises is worth doing.—*Editor Southern Planter.*]

To Dissolve Bones.—Procure a stout earthen jar, of about thirty gallons capacity. Put 100 lbs. in the jar and moisten them with water for a day or two. Now dilute fifty pounds of vitriol with two or three times its bulk of water, and pour one-third of it upon the bones. Stir them frequently, and on the morrow add another third of the acid and

water. Stir them well, and if not dissolved sufficiently on the next day, add the remainder of the liquid. As soon as the bones are reduced, mix charcoal dust, dry peat, saw dust, loamy earth, or if for immediate use, ashes or lime may be used as a dryer until the whole is in the form of powder, convenient for sowing by hand or drilling machine. You may apply this at the rate of three to ten bushels of the bones to the acre, sown broadcast and lightly plowed or harrowed in, so that the earth will absorb the gaseous portions of the gelatine of the bones, which is of great value, independent of the phosphate of lime, a substance greatly needed upon all the cultivated fields and pastures of all the old States of the Union.

Scientific American.

From the Southern Cultivator. The Mississippi Scraper.

MESSRS. EDITORS: I have seized upon this opportunity, as there is a fine cotton-rain-descending, to drop you a few lines in reference to the "Mississippi Scraper," which I have been using this spring, and which, in my opinion, is destined to be one of the most popular cotton plows in the Southern States.

The most of planters are aware of the great importance of working one's cotton the first and second time as quick as possible, so as to keep the grass down while the cotton is small. A hand can "chop out" and put to a stand as much more after the scraper, as they could after any other implement I ever saw. The scraper is used but one time, which is the first, shaving the young grass, weeds and clods from the cotton, and leaving it on a straight ridge, from one to two inches wide, the hoes following, chopping *lightly* through, leaving from one to three stalks in a place. This done, we turn on it again with hoes, and put it to a stand, the barrows following, to dirt it, and loosen the earth *shallow* around the cotton.

Land should be bedded moderately high, for the scraper to do good work—which by all means should be done if the scraper is not to be used. And while on this subject permit me to remark that the system of bedding cotton land just before planting, certainly should be abandoned in this country. The very best farmers I know all agree that cotton will grow better, is more healthy and easier cultivated on a *firm* bed than a loose one. Experience has taught me, that the best plan is to throw three furrows to-

gether with a turning plow, in February, and break out the residue in March. Thus you have your beds clean and fresh, *after planting*, and at the same time have a firm place for your cotton to germinate and grow upon. Cotton beds should be opened very shallow. This I effect with an " opener," made for the purpose, and cover shallow, with a block twenty-four by sixteen inches, hollowed out in front one inch, which leaves the bed in beautiful order for the scraper. The scraper we use was obtained from Dr. Philips, of Mississippi, who has done as much for the agricultural world as any other man. Yours, truly,

FARMER.

Cedar Valley, Ga., May, 1853.

Lucerne—Its Culture and Uses.

From the Southern Cultivator.

MESSRS. EDITORS: Twenty years' experience in the culture of lucerne leads me to regard it of incomparable value in this climate, (36° north,) both for soil feeding and for hay. Five good crops a year, for a succession of seven or eight years, may be relied on with fair treatment. The smallest number I have cut is four, the largest seven.

Soil.—Any good corn land, high or low. Mine is a deep red clay.

Time of Sowing.—As soon as the ground is in plowing condition in the spring, or early enough in the fall to allow the young plants to become so well rooted as to resist the winter frost, say the latter part of August or first of September.

Mode of Sowing.—Broadcast; brushed or lightly harrowed in, and rolled. I have tried drills, but decidedly prefer the former.

Quantity of Seed to the Acre.—The books say 10 lbs., and the seed being good; the ground well prepared, and the season auspicious, this may suffice, but my experience suggests double that quantity.

Preparation of Ground.—Deep plowing—the deeper the better—and thorough pulverization, together with liberal manuring. Liberality here is the truest economy. If sowed in the spring or late in the winter—February or March—hot, reeking manure from the stables or sties should be plowed in, in the fall preceding. If sowed in the fall, this operation should be performed the previous spring, in which case a rich summer crop of something else may be taken. I have not tried Guano or superphosphate of lime on lucerne, but do not doubt their adaptation to it, especially for surface ma-

nuring, after the second or third year. Ashes and plaster of Paris I have applied as a top-dressing with satisfactory results.

Time of Cutting.—As soon as the flowers appear. Cure as clover—not scattering—but suffering it to wilt, and then cocking in tall narrow-based cocks, not exceeding three feet, or at most four, in diameter, built as high as they will stand. In two, three or four days, according to the weather, turn them over—opening a little to the sun—from half an hour to an hour in advance of the wagon, and haul to the barn or stack.

The product is more than double that of clover, to say nothing of the salivating effect of the second or third crop of the latter, from which every crop of the former is free. It is said to be less nutritious, yet I find it for soil-feeding to pigs, calves, mares and colts, as well as cows and horses, decidedly superior to clover. Cows give more milk when fed on it; the reason of which, perhaps, is, that they are fonder of it, and therefore eat more. Every change from lucerne to clover proves the superiority of lucerne, both by the quantity of the mill and the appearance of the cows.

In July and August, if dry, lucerne fails and the only reliable substitute I have found though a very inadequate one, except in quantity, is the Guinea grass.

Lucerne should be cut—never depastured. If thickly sown it covers all weeds, and takes exclusive possession for six or seven years till the blue grass enters the lists. Rather than undertake the extermination of this insidious and almost indomitable foe, the eradication of which, if completely effected by the coulter and harrow, and rake and haul "costs more than it comes to," I have chosen to sow a new plat, and cultivate corn in the old one. One year's thorough culture of corn, with a good coat of manure, refits for lucerne.

Seed may be procured at Baltimore, Philadelphia or New York, at from 25 to 37 cents per pound.

P. S.—If weeds threaten to smother it the first spring or summer, let the scythe be fearlessly applied.

Very respectfully yours,

W. J. BINGHAM.

Oaks, Orange county, N. C., Feb. 1853.

Grubs in Horses.—One ounce of strong vinegar, one ounce chalk in powder. Mix it well and drench the animal with it.